Chapter 44

Tiny Murmur

HMMM
WHAT SHOULD WE DO HERE?
CRESCENT CONFECTIONS

YOU LOOK TROUBLED GRANDPA.
WORKING ON A NEW PRODUCT
GRANDPA?
YEAH.
I'M TRYING TO SORT OUT WHAT TO MAKE FOR THE SUMMER LINEUP.
WHAT TO MAKE...
NOTHING'S REALLY COMING TO ME.

LAST YEAR THE "BAKED CRESCENT" WAS VERY POPULAR
IF WE COULD MAKE SOMETHING THAT POPULAR AGAIN...
CRESCENT CONFECTIONS
I WANT SOMETHING WE CAN SHOW OFF AS A SHOWPIECE IF POSSIBLE.
ANOTHER BIG HIT...
Hmmm
FOR IT TO BE THAT SUCCESSFUL,
IT NEEDS TO BE SOMETHING PEOPLE WILL REALLY REMEMBER...
IT SHOULD BE SOMETHING YOU CAN GIVE AS A GIFT, SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY HOLIDAYS. SO SHOULD WE DO SOMETHING BAKED?
HUH? HOLD ON!
SHELF LIFE IS IMPORTANT, BAKED GOODS LIKE BAKED CRESCENT DON'T LAST VERY LONG!
SOME THING RAW-ISH WOULD BE GOOD.
LIKE STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU, IT DOESN'T LAST VERY LONG, BUT THAT'S REALLY POPULAR RIGHT NOW.

STRAW-BERRY DAIFUKU, HUH...?
THAT ONE DID SUPRISE ME
HMM
IT WAS A DELICIOUS IDEA, IT REALLY CAUGHT ON.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE?
WELL THEN, GIRLS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BITE INTO?
SOMETHING "UNEXPECTED" ON THE INSIDE THAT CREATES A NEW FLAVOR WOULD BE GOOD.
I SEE, SOMETHING LIKE A STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU.
UM, APPLES, OH AND WHIPPED CREAM!
CRESCENT CONFECTIONS
KIDS THESE DAYS DON'T APPRECIATE JAPANESE TREATS ANY MORE.
YOU KNOW JAPANESE SWEETS DON'T USE CREAM, RIGHT?
WHIPPED CREAM...
WHIPPED CREAM...
I MEAN, NOW THERE'S CREAM MITSUMAME, AND CREAM ZENZAI, RIGHT?
BUT COME ON! RED BEAN PASTE AND WHIPPED CREAM TASTE REALLY GOOD TOGETHER, DON'T THEY?
ugh...
THAT'S A DIRTY WORD.
SORRY, BUT FOR YOUR GRANDPA.

IT'S QUITE DELICIOUS, BUT
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING WE CAN REALLY GET TRAPPED THINKING ABOUT AS SWEET MAKERS.
Sweet Shop
CRESCENT CON
OH MAN,
I'VE GOT TO GO GET SOMETHING SWEET. I'LL BE BACK.
YEAH I'M WITH YOU!!
Lets go shopping
CREAM MITSUMAME IS TASTY ALRIGHT.
IN A NICE FLOWER PRINT OR WOODEN BOWL.
HMMM, THAT IS TRUE...
CREAM MITSUMAME DOES TASTE REALLY GOOD WITH LOTS OF CREAM...
I see...
Hmmm...

OH MY, CREAM! THAT'S SO NICE!
OH BUT LOOK, FOR 100 YEN MORE YOU CAN ADD WHIPPED CREAM.
ANMITSU COSTS 430 YEN, TWO WOULD BE 860 YEN...
SO THAT WOULD MEAN,
ME TOO.
MMM, BUT I WANT SOMETHING WITH ANKO IN IT TOO.
glitter
huff huff
Intent stare
Dessert Menu

LOOK, MITSUMAME'S 350 YEN.
IT'S FINE, WE CAN SPOIL OURSELVES ONCE IN A WHILE.
Mitsumame

OH? THEN I'LL DO BANANAS!
IF WE'RE PUTTING CREAM ON IT, WHY NOT APRICOTS?
BUT WAIT HOLD ON,
WHY NOT SPEND AN EXTRA 50 YEN FOR EXTRA CREAM?
BUT HEY, IF WE'RE GOING THAT FAR,

MITSUHASHI SWEET SHO
COME AGAIN!
OH NO...
UGH
Wobble
empty
IN THE END
With Everything On It
Ta daaa!
matcha
anko
ice cream
banana
whipped cream
apricots
whipped
anko
FULLY LOADED
TOTAL COMES TO 1610 YEN

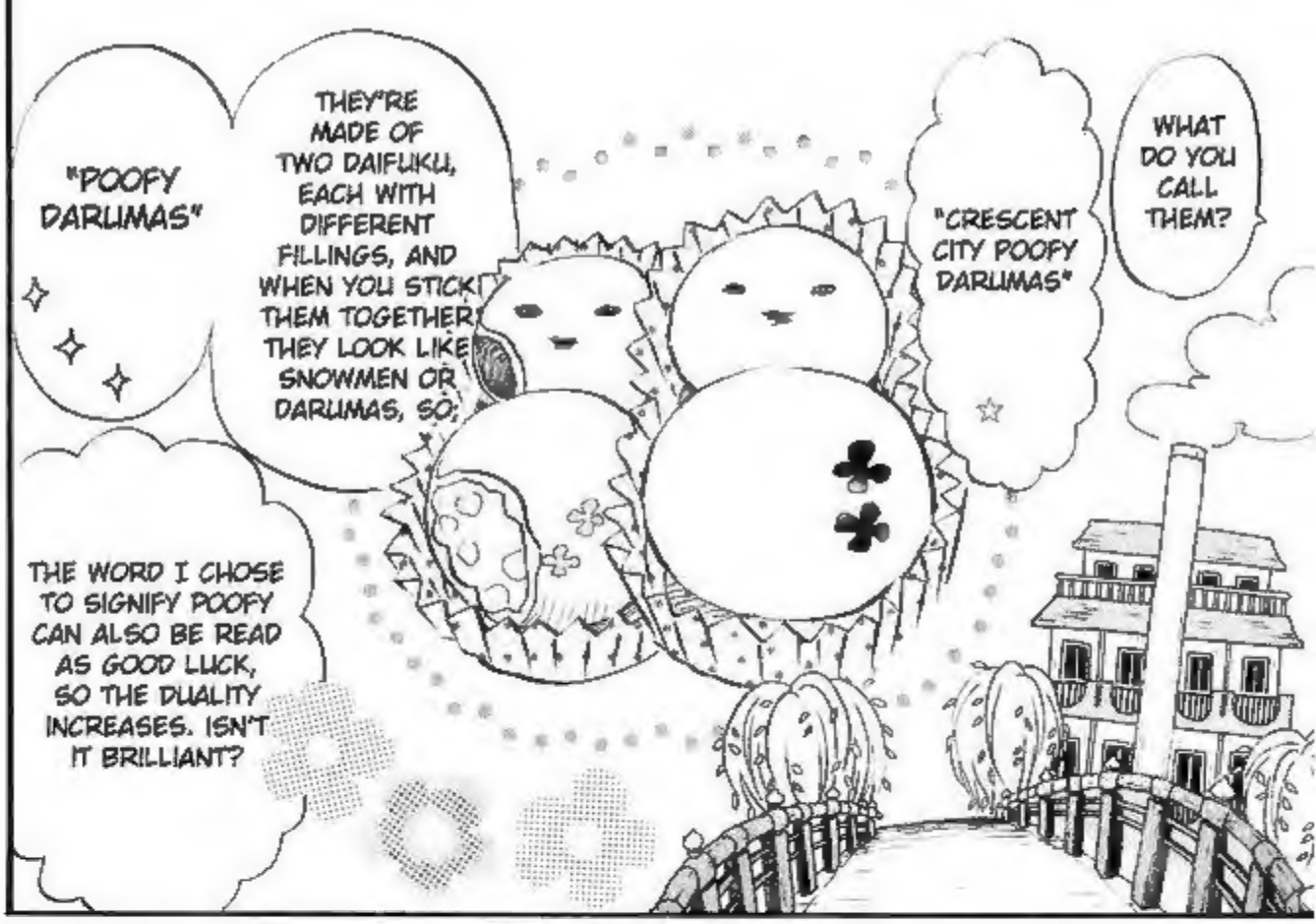
I COULD FEED THE FAMILY FOR 5 DAYS WITH 2.3 KILOS OF CHICKEN...
I COULD HAVE BOUGHT 2.3 KILOS OF CHICKEN FOR THAT MUCH.
BUT 1610 YEN, CHICKEN'S AT 68 YEN PER 100 GRAMS
I WORK SO HARD TO SAVE MONEY TOO.
I ALWAYS SAY "NOT THIS TIME" BUT IT STILL HAPPENS
I KNEW WE'D SPEND A LOT BUT, 1610 YEN...
MAN, THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS.
THINK I'LL GET FAT?
MY BELLYS SO FULL

OH YES, MOMO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO HELP ME COME UP WITH AN IDEA?
HEY, DON'T GET SAD,
BUT HEY WHAT ABOUT OUR LAST TOPIC OF CONVERSATION?
Whaa?!
NOW I HAVE TO TIGHTEN THE BELT EVEN MORE FOR THIS MONTH...
THAT'S THE TRAP OF THE SWEET SHOP... YOUR HEAD GOES BLANK...
YOU GET FAT TOO...
DOOM
IT'S A BAD SCENE...
BE SURE TO STAY AWAY MOMO.
WHERE'D YOU GO?
Shook
Shook

GUM?
.....
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE INSIDE A DAIFUKU OR A MANJU?
WHAT DO YOU LIKE?
HUH.....?
Calm down!
G-GRANDPA, WHAT'S WRONG?!
WAHHH
YOU'RE A GENIUS!!
BANG

UM...
OK THEN!
OKAY, CALMLY,
LET'S TRY THIS ONE MORE TIME, AND KEEP A COOL HEAD.
easy does it
F- FINE
SURE
LET'S THINK OF TASTY DAIFUKU FILLINGS
FIRST, THERE'S ANKO OF COURSE...
MASHED SOYBEANS
WALNUTS
MACCHA
APPLE
STRAWBERRY
CHESTNUTS,
SWEET POTATO
SALTED CARAMEL.
OH! AND OF COURSE WHIPPED CREAM!
HEY! WE'RE NOT GOING DOWN THAT ROAD AGAIN! STAY IN THE REALM OF JAPANESE SWEETS!
drip drip
IF I LISTENED TO EVERY SUGGESTION YOU KIDS MADE, THIS WOULD BE A CAKE SHOP BY NOW!
DO YOU REALLY HATE JAPANESE SWEETS THAT MUCH?!
I-I CAN'T HELP IT! I LOVE CREAM! I REALLY LOVE IT!

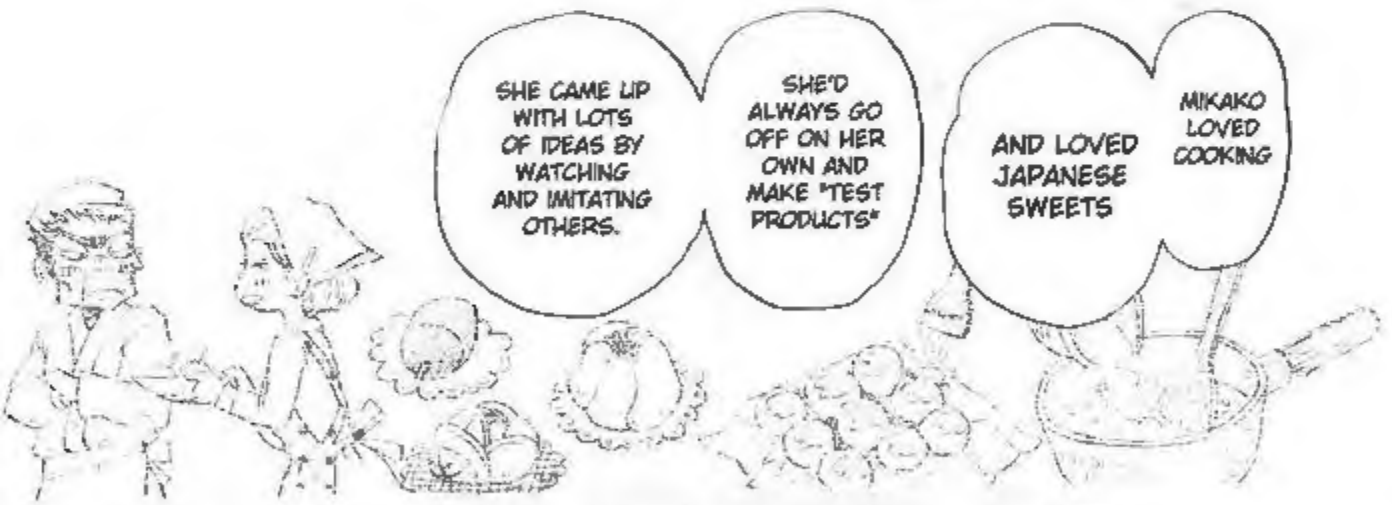
HEY!
IN LOTS OF DIFFERENT MEANINGS OF THE PHRASE...
HUH?
BUT I CAN'T SETTLE ON JUST ONE THING...
sigh
THAT'S CAUSE YOU GIRLS START LUSTING FOR EVERYTHING WE MENTION...
Bean paste mocha cream strawberry cream, chestnut...
IT'S NO USE! NOTHING WILL COME OUT, NO MATTER HOW I RACK MY BRAIN!
poof poof
Pa-dum
HINA!
EUREKA, THAT'S IT!
WOW, HOW CUTE!
THEY LOOK LIKE LITTLE DARUMAS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, LIKE THAT?
I knew I could do it!
phew
gasp
Meow!


"POOFY DARUMAS"
THEY'RE MADE OF TWO DAIFUKU, EACH WITH DIFFERENT FILLINGS, AND WHEN YOU STICK THEM TOGETHER THEY LOOK LIKE SNOWMEN OR DARUMAS, SO;
THE WORD I CHOSE TO SIGNIFY POOFY CAN ALSO BE READ AS GOOD LUCK, SO THE DUALITY INCREASES. ISN'T IT BRILLIANT?
"CRESCENT CITY POOFY DARUMAS"
WHAT DO YOU CALL THEM?

WE CAN KEEP THEM IN LINE WITH THE SEASONS. WE CAN COME UP WITH COUNTLESS VARIATIONS.
SINCE THE INSIDE IS ALL THAT CHANGES
chestnut and anko in fall, strawberry and cream in spring...
YOU CAN GET A COMBINATION OF BEAN PASTE AND WHIPPED CREAM!
OR ANKO AND SWEET POTATO
2 FLAVORS OF FILLING, AND THEY'RE CUTE TO BOOT!
I GOTTA SAY THIS WAS A GREAT IDEA.
MMM HMM

I THOUGHT UP A NEW SWEET TOO!
LOOK MOM!
ALRIGHT!
OK, TOMORROW, I'LL PROMOTE THE IDEA TO SADA AND THE OTHERS.
LETS KEEP MOVING AHEAD!

BUT
THE ONE WHO GAVE THIS PLACE ITS APPEAL AND ITS NAME, WAS MIKAKO,
YOUR MOM.
HUH? WHAT'RE YOU ON ABOUT?
THE ONE WHO SLAVED OVER THIS PLACE, BUILT IT UP, EVERYTHING DOWN TO THE FINAL TOUCHES WAS ALL YOUR OLD GRANDPA!!
HEY GRANDPA,
MOM CAME UP WITH "CRESCENT CONFECTIONS" DIDN'T SHE?
chomp
Grr
meeeow!
I'm being eaten!


SHE CAME UP WITH LOTS OF IDEAS BY WATCHING AND IMITATING OTHERS.
SHE'D ALWAYS GO OFF ON HER OWN AND MAKE "TEST PRODUCTS"
AND LOVED JAPANESE SWEETS
MIKAKO LOVED COOKING

OH YEAH...?

I HOPE THESE POOFY DARUMAS ARE LIKE CRESCENT CONFECTIONS
I WANT EVERYONE TO TASTE THEM...
AND THAT THEY MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY.
OH NO, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THE TIME!!
dong
dong
I'VE GOT TO GET DINNER IN THE OVEN!
Agh!

OH YEAH!
.....

brrrring
brrrring
Still nothing there, meow

Brrrring
Brrrring

SLIDE
Brrrring
OH
UM
HELLO?
UH
Brrrring
H—
huh?
HEY, REI! HOW ARE YOU TONIGHT?
HELLO?
STILL SURPRISED
UM
YES
GOOD EVENING
HELLO ?
UM
YES
GLADLY.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US FOR DINNER?

OH MY, REI! IT'S BEEN SO LONG, HOW ARE YOU?
IT'S REI!
UM, YEAH
HOW WAS HUMAN SHOGI?
IN SPITE OF THE RAIN, IT WAS A GOOD TIME.
OH, WHAT'S ALL THAT YOU'VE GOT?
AH, MY MENTOR GAVE THESE TO ME, PRODUCE FROM HIS HOME TOWN IN YAMAGATA.
IT'S MORE THAN I CAN EAT. PLEASE HELP YOURSELVES.
OH THAT'S SO NICE! PLEASE BRING IT IN!
THAT DAY, KIRIYAMA CAME BACK FROM YAMAGATA WITH LOTS OF PRESENTS.
IT MADE MY SISTER HAPPY SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO OVER THE BRIDGE TO GET PRODUCE THIS WEEK.
WE ALL ENJOYED THE POOFY DARUMAS I THOUGHT OF FOR DESERT.
AND RUN THE SHOP TOGETHER WITH GRANDPA.
IF I CAN, I WANT TO BE A JAPANESE CONFECTIONER
AND THIS IS STILL A SECRET.
HINATA
Chapter 44 END